

Amendment to the Claims

1 – 25. (Cancelled)

26. (Previously Presented) A method comprising:

monitoring usage of a web browser of a computer by a computer user during a usage session;

recording information at the computer including hypertext links selected by the user during the monitored session;

analyzing the recorded hypertext links at the computer to determine user interest for the session;

automatically generating a search engine query by the computer based on the determined interest;

transmitting the generated search engine query from the computer to at least one remote web site to query the at least one remote web site; and

receiving query results at the computer from the at least one remote web site based on the query.

27. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 26, wherein analyzing comprises parsing hypertext links selected by the user into words and determining the user interest based on the parsed words.

28. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 26, wherein determining the user interest comprises determining the user interest based on the content of the hypertext links using heuristics.

29. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 26, wherein analyzing comprises applying the hypertext links to keyword tables stored in the computer, the keyword tables comprising words that are indicative of the user interest.

30. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 26, further comprising displaying a set of words to the computer user indicative of the determined user interest and displaying a button for the user to click on to indicate a desire to receive information regarding the displayed set of words.

31. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 26, further comprising displaying an icon to the computer user for the user to click on to start the usage session.

32. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 26, further comprising determining a change in the user interest by comparing recorded information to category profiles stored in the computer.

33. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 26, wherein monitoring further comprises at least one of:

monitoring time spent at a network site;

monitoring network pages bookmarked by the user;

monitoring frequency that particular network pages are visited; and

monitoring the content of visited network pages, and

wherein analyzing comprises analyzing the recorded information and the hypertext links to determine a user interest for the session.

34. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 26, wherein generating the query is in response to a user action and is based on the content of an item or a document currently being displayed.

35. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 26, wherein generating a search engine query comprises constructing queries to perform searches using search engines on a plurality of web sites based on the user interest, the method further comprising transmitting the queries to the plurality of web sites.

36. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 35, further comprising receiving search result documents from the web sites, the search result documents comprising a plurality of search result entries, filtering the search result entries based on the determined interest, and selecting a subset of the search result entries based on the filtering.

37. (Previously Presented) A machine-readable medium having stored thereon data representing instructions which, when executed by a computer, cause the computer to perform operations comprising:

monitoring usage of a web browser of a computer by a computer user during a usage session;

recording information at the computer including hypertext links selected by the user during the monitored session;

analyzing the recorded hypertext links at the computer to determine a user interest for the session;

automatically generating a search engine query by the computer based on the determined interest;

transmitting the generated search engine query from the computer to at least one remote web site to query the at least one remote web site; and

receiving query results at the computer from the at least one remote web site based on the query.

38. (Previously Presented) The medium of claim 37, wherein the instructions for analyzing comprise instructions which, when executed by the computer, cause the computer to perform further operations comprising parsing hypertext links selected by the user into words and determining the user interest based on the parsed words.

39. (Previously Presented) The medium of claim 37, wherein the instructions for analyzing comprise instructions which, when executed by the computer, cause the computer to perform further operations comprising applying the hypertext links to keyword tables stored in the computer, the keyword tables comprising words that are indicative of the user interest.

40. (Previously Presented) The medium of claim 37, further comprising instructions which, when executed by the computer, cause the computer to perform operations comprising displaying a set of words to the computer user indicative of the determined user interest and displaying a button for the user to click on to indicate a desire to receive information regarding the displayed set of words.

41. (Previously Presented) The medium of claim 37, wherein the instructions for generating the query are executed in response to a user action and based on the content of an item or a document currently being displayed.

42. (Previously Presented) The medium of claim 37, wherein the instructions for generating a search engine query comprise instructions which, when executed by the computer, cause the computer to perform further operations comprising constructing queries to perform searches using search engines on a plurality of web sites based on the user interest, and wherein the instructions further comprise instructions for transmitting the queries to the plurality of web sites.

43. (Previously Presented) A profile agent for a computer system comprising:

an activity monitor to monitor usage of a web browser of the computer system by a computer user during a usage session, to record information on the computer system including hypertext links selected by the user during the monitored session, and to analyze the recorded hypertext links at the computer system to determine a user interest for the session; and

a query engine to automatically generate a search engine query at the computer system based on the determined interest, to transmit the generated search engine query from the computer system to at least one remote web site to query the at least one remote web site, and to receive query results at the computer system from the at least one remote web site based on the query.

44. (Previously Presented) The agent of claim 43, wherein the activity monitor parses hypertext links selected by the user into words and determines the user interest based on the parsed words.

45. (Previously Presented) The agent of claim 43, wherein the activity monitor determines the user interest based on the content of the hypertext links using heuristics.

46. (Previously Presented) The agent of claim 43 wherein the activity monitor comprises keyword tables stored at the computer system and analyzes the hypertext links by comparing the hypertext links to the keyword tables, the keyword tables comprising words that are indicative of the user interest.

47. (Previously Presented) The agent of claim 43, wherein the activity monitor comprises category profiles stored at the computer system and determines a shift in the user interest by comparing recorded information to the stored category profiles.

48. (Previously Presented) The agent of claim 43, wherein the query engine transmits the search engine query to a search engine, the agent further comprising a results filter to receive a search result document from the queried search engine, the search result document comprising a

plurality of search result entries, the results filter to filter the search result entries based on the determined interest, and select a subset of the search result entries.

49. (Previously Presented) The agent of claim 43, wherein the query engine constructs queries to perform searches using search engines on a plurality of web sites based on the user interest, and transmits the queries to the plurality of web sites.

50. (Previously Presented) The agent of claim 49, further comprising a results filter to receive search result documents from the web sites, the search result documents comprising a plurality of search result entries, to filter the search result entries based on the determined interest, and to select a subset of the search result entries.

51. (Previously Presented) A computer system comprising:

a processor;

a network connection;

an activity monitor to monitor computer usage of a web browser of the computer system by a computer user during an Internet session, to record information at the computer system including hypertext links selected by the user during the monitored session, and to analyze the recorded hypertext links at the computer system to determine a user interest for the session; and

a query engine to automatically generate search engine queries at the computer system based on the user interest, to transmit the queries from the computer system to search engines on a plurality of remote Internet web sites, and to receive query results at the computer system from the plurality of remote web sites based on the automatically generated query.

52. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 51, wherein the activity monitor parses hypertext links selected by the user into words and determines the user interest based on the parsed words.

53. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 51, wherein the activity monitor comprises keyword tables stored at the computer system and analyzes the hypertext links by comparing the hypertext links to the keyword tables to identify words that may be indicative of the user interest.

54. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 51, wherein the activity monitor records at least one of time spent at a network site, network pages bookmarked by the user, frequency that particular network pages are visited, and the content of visited network pages, and the activity monitor analyzes the recorded information and the hypertext links to determine a user interest for the session.

55. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 51, further comprising a results filter to receive a search result document from queried search engines, the search result document comprising a plurality of search result entries, the results filter to filter the search result entries based on the determined interest, and select a subset of the search result entries.

56-72. (Canceled)